

Message Text

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S E C R E T CAIRO 18366

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CHEROKEE

EYES ONLY FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PPDC, EG, US

SUBJ: MESSAGE FOR SADAT

REF STATE 264771,

1. WAS ABLE MEET WITH PRES SADAT AT 1130 LOCAL TODAY. VP MUBARAK WAS WITH HIM. AFTERPRESENTING THE LETTER TO PRESIDENT, I ALSO READ IT TO HIM AS HE PREFERS.

2. SADAT LISTENED ATTENTIVELY, BUT WAS CLEARLY A BIT DIS-APPOINTED THAT HIS BOLD IDEA HAD FAILED TO STRIKE A RESPON-SIVE CHORD. AFTER I HAD FINISHED, HE OBSERVED THAT HIS PRO-POSED ACTION HAD BEEN DIRECTED MAINLY AT FOCUSING WORLD PUBLIC OPINION ON PEACE AND WAS INTENDED TO BE SUPPORTIVE OF PRES CARTER'S EFFORT. HE HAD NOT HAD IN MIND UNDERTAKING ANYTHING NEW. HOWEVER, HE UNDERSTOOD PRES CARTER'S VIEWS AND WOULD HOLD THE IDEA FOR POSSIBLE USE AT A MORE PROPITIOUS TIME. I ASSURED HIM PRES CARTER FULLY UNDERSTANDS THE CONSTRUCTIVE PURPOSE THAT PRES SADAT HAD IN MIND. THE PROPOSAL IS INDEED A BOLD ONE AND, AS INDICATED IN PRES CARTER'S LETTER,

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MIGHT PERHAPS BE CONSIDERED AGAIN AT SOME APPROPRIATE TIME WHEN THE GENEVA CONF IS UNDERWAY. THIS SEEMED TO MOLLIFY HIM.

3. SOMEWHAT WISTFULLY, SADAT THEN SAID THAT IF PRES CARTER HAD AGREED TO HIS PROPOSAL, IT HAD BEEN HIS INTENTION TO SEND VP MUBARAK TO THE ARAB CAPITALS TO SOLICIT SUPPORT. MUBARAK WOULD HAVE TOLD ASSAD ANY ANY OTHER RECALCITRANTS

THAT, IF THEY REFUSED TO ATTEND, HE ALONE WOULD GO WITH PRESIDENT CARTER TO "EASTERN JERUSALEM."

4. ON THE VERY DAY OF HIS ARRIVAL IN SAUDI ARABIA, SADAT REMARKED, PRINCE SAUD BIN FAYSAL HAD RETURNED FROM THE US. PRINCE SAUD HAD RELATED HIS TALKS WITH PRES CARTER AND YOU. IT HAD COME THROUGH VERY CLEARLY THAT THE SYRIANS ARE BEING DIFFICULT. AS A RESULT OF FURTHER TALKS WITH KING KHALID AND PRINCE FAHD, PRINCE SAUD IS BEING SENT TO SYRIA TO PRESS ASSAD TO COOPERATE. SADAT SAID THE SAUDIS ARE PROVIDING ASSAD WITH CONSIDERABLE FUNDS AND OPINED "IT APPEARS THAT THEY HAVE FULL INFLUENCE ON SYRIA." SADAT SAID HE HAD SPECIFICALLY ASKED PRINCE SAUD TO IMPRESS UPON ASSAD THE "INTENSE AND VICIOUS" PRO-ISRAELI PRESSURE NOW BEING EXERTED ON PRES CARTER IN THE US. THIS WAS NOT THE TIME FOR ASSAD TO CREATE DIFFICULTIES. HE, SADAT, WOULD PROCEED REGARDLESS OF WHAT ASSAD OR OTHERS DO.

5. SADAT URGED THAT PRES CARTER PAY NO HEED TO WHAT SYRIANS SAY; ASSAD IS "AUCTIONEERING." HE AGAIN WISHED TO ASSURE PRES CARTER THAT EVERYTHING THEY HAD AGREED UPON, SADAT WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT. HE ALSO URGED THAT PRES CARTER "STAND VERY FIRM" AGAINST PRO-ISRAELI PRESSURES.

6. SADAT DID INDICATE HIS CONCERN THAT UNLESS ADEQUATE ADVANCE PREPARATIONS ARE MADE FOR GENEVA, IT WILL GET NOWHERE.
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HE THOUGHT THAT AN AGREED WORKING PAPER, INDICATING AT LEAST THE PRINCIPAL POINTS ("HEADLINES," HE CALLED THEM) TO BE NEGOTIATED, IS NEEDED. I REMINDED HIM THAT THE AGREED POINTS OF OUR WORKING PAPER ARE BEING SUBSUMED IN THE NEW INITIATIVE TO RECONVENE GENEVA WHICH PRES CARTER HAD MENTIONED IN HIS PREVIOUS LETTER TO SADAT AND WHICH IS NOW THE FOCUS OF OUR EFFORTS.

7. AS I WAS LEAVING, SADAT ASKED THAT I ALSO GIVE FAHMY A COPY OF THE MESSAGE. WHEN I WENT TO MFA, FAHMY WAS CLOSETED IN MEETING WITH VISITING SOVIET ME EXPERT SYTENKO. I THEREFORE GAVE SEALED ENVELOPE TO USAMA AL-BAZ, WHO UNDERTOOK GET IT TO FAHMY BEFORE THE LATTER LEFT FOR A MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT A SHORT TIME LATER.

8. COMMENT: WHILE SOMEWHAT DISAPPOINTED, SADAT ACCEPTED PRESIDENT CARTER'S COUNSEL WITH GOOD GRACE. FOR THE MOMENT AT LEAST, HIS BOLD INITIATIVE IS ON THE BACK BURNER. HE IS CLEARLY STRUCK WITH HIS IDEA, HOWEVER, AND IT COULD SURFACE AGAIN IF PROGRESS ON RECONVENING GENEVA BECOMES STALLED. FAHMY APPARENTLY CAUTIONED HIM DURING INITIAL DISCUSSIONS OF THE IDEA THAT IT MIGHT BE PREMATURE. SADAT NEVERTHELESS

WANTED TO TRY IT OUT ON PRESIDENT CARTER.

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